

REMARKS

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for thoroughly reviewing and considering the pending application. The Office Action dated October 28, 2005 has been received and carefully reviewed. Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended. Claim 6 has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-5 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,195,910 to *Robineau* (hereinafter “*Robineau*”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,966,051 to *Gerhardt* (hereinafter “*Gerhardt*”). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As required in Chapter 2143.03 of the M.P.E.P., in order to “establish *prima facie* obviousness of the claimed invention, all the limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art.” The Applicant respectfully submits that neither *Robineau* nor *Gerhardt*, either singularly or in combination, disclose or suggest each and every element recited in claims 1-3. In particular, claim 1 recites a clothes dryer comprising, among other features, “a fire wall made of metal disposed at a lower portion of the top cover, and the fire wall directing a fluid toward an outside of the body if fluid leaks through the hole.” Neither of the cited references disclose or suggest this feature. Therefore, claim 1 is, as are claims 2 and 3 which depend therefrom, patentable over *Robineau* in view of *Gerhardt* and the Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action also rejected claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Gerhardt*. The Applicant has canceled claim 6, thereby rendering the rejection of this claim moot. Regarding claims 4 and 5, the Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As required in Chapter 2131 of the M.P.E.P., in order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102, “the reference must teach every element of the claim.” The Applicant respectfully

submits that *Gerhardt* does not teach every element recited in claims 4 and 5. Thus, *Gerhardt* cannot anticipate these claims. More specifically, claim 4 has been amended to recite a laundry dryer comprising, among other features, “a fire wall disposed below the top cover; wherein the firewall has a curvature such that if a fluid leaks through the hole onto the firewall, the fluid is directed toward an outside of the body.” Accordingly, the Applicant submits that claim 4 is patentable over *Gerhardt* and requests that the rejection be withdrawn. Similarly, claim 5, which depends from claim 4, is patentable for at least the same reasons.

The Office Action also provisionally rejected claims 1-6 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 15-25 of co-pending Application No. 10/629,775. Claim 6 has been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection of this claim moot. Regarding the remaining claims, as this is a provisional rejection, the Applicant will tend to this rejection upon an indication of allowability of the pending application.

The application is in a condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner believes a conversation with the Applicant’s representative would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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